

# Historical Dictionary of Somalia

*New Edition*

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## Bibliography

Research about Somalia has always been a challenge, for Somalia is an oral society. The scholar must gather sometimes unreliable, incomplete, and poorly transcribed oral materials. None of Somalia's languages had a script until 1972, when Af-Mahaa was adopted as the national language with a modified Latin script. In addition, readers interested in Somali studies need to know more than one European language, for the British, the Italians, and the French all colonized Somalia. Moreover, Somalis in the Horn live under Ethiopian and Kenyan administrations; thus, Amharic and Ki-Swahili are also useful. Furthermore, Arabic was the language of education, government, and trade throughout the Islamic era. Somali studies became more confused in the postindependence period, because scholarship was influenced by pan-Somali ideology to emphasize homogeneity and neglect or even repress materials that disclosed cultural diversity and pluralism in the society. The civil war of the 1980s and the collapse of the state in 1991 severely obstructed scholarly work. The destruction of Somali archives, libraries, museums, and ancient monuments means some important sources have been permanently lost.

This bibliography offers users an overview of Somali studies. Although most postindependence sources are in English, useful materials appear in Arabic, Italian, French, German, and Af-Mahaa Somali that may be found in the "Bibliographies and Reference Works" section of this bibliography. Some of the more useful general bibliographies are *Somalia* (1976), by Mohamed Khalif Salad, and *Somalia*, World Bibliographical Series, vol. 92, compiled by Mark W. DeLancey et al. (1988). Walter Clarke's *Humanitarian Intervention in Somalia* (1995) is very important for the Somali civil war and international intervention. Readers interested in Somali history may start with the proceedings of the first three meetings of the International Congress of Somali Studies, the first of which was edited by Hussein Adam and Charles Gishekteer (1992), the second of which (in four volumes) was edited by Thomas Labahn (1984), and the third edited by Annarita Puglielli (1988). Later volumes in the series are *Mending Rips in the Sky: Options for Somali Communities in the 21st Century*, edited by Hussein Adam and Richard Ford (1997), and *Variations on the Theme of Somaliness*, edited by Suzanne Lilus Muddle (2001). Each of these volumes



has a section on history. Lee Cassanelli's *The Shaping of Somali Society: Reconstructing the History of a Pastoral People, 1600–1900* (1982) is a solid overview of precolonial Somalia.

The most important items dealing with government are *Clan, Sub-clan and Regional Representation in the Somali Government Organization 1960–1990: Statistical Data and Findings* (1998), by Aves O. Hagi and Abdiwahid O. Hagi; *The Struggle for Land in Southern Somalia: The War behind the War* (1996), edited by Catherine Besteman and Lee Cassanelli; *The Invention of Somalia* (1995), edited by Ali Jimale Ahmed; *The Somali Challenge: From Catastrophe to Renewal?* (1994), edited by Ahmed Samatar; and *The Fallen State: Dissonance, Dictatorship and Death in Somalia* (1997), by Alice Hashim.

For human rights, publications by Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International are very important. John Prendergast's *The Bones of Our Children Are Not Yet Buried: The Looming Spectre of Famine and Massive Human Rights Abuse in Somalia* (1994), contains useful information. On international intervention in the 1990s, the United Nations publications and the U.S. government publications are especially valuable. On peacekeeping, John Hirsch and Robert Oakley's *Somalia and Operation Restore Hope: Reflections on Peacemaking and Peacekeeping* (1995), Walter Clarke and Jeffrey Herbst's *Learning From Somalia: The Lessons of Armed Humanitarian Intervention* (1997), Michael Kelly's *Peace Operations: Tackling the Military, Legal and Policy Challenges* (1997), and Mohamed Sahnoun's *Somalia: The Missed Opportunities* (1994) are based on eyewitness accounts. Oakley was President George H. W. Bush's and President Bill Clinton's special envoy to Somalia, Kelly was an operations law officer with the Australian Contingent in Somalia, Clark was an American Foreign Service officer in both Somalia and Djibouti, and Sahnoun was the UN secretary-general's special envoy to Somalia.

As for the crisis of identity and cultural issues, Catherine Besteman's *Unravelling Somalia: Race, Violence, and the Legacy of Slavery* (1999), Virginia Luling's *Somali Sultanate: The Geledi City-State over 150 Years* (2002), and Ioan Lewis's *Blood and Bone: The Call of Kinship in Somali Society* (1994) are the pioneering studies in English.

In language and literature, Muse H. Isma'il Galaal (d. 1980), Mustafa Sheikh Hassan (d. 1983), Yasin Isman Keenadiid (d. 1989), Shire Jama (d. 1989), and B. W. Andrzejewski (d. 1994) were the doyens of the field. David Laitin's *Politics, Language, and Thought: The Somali Experience* (1977), John Ibrahim Saeed's *Syntax of Focus and Topic in Somali* (1984), John Johnson's *Heellooy Heelleellooy: The Development of the Genre Heello in Modern Somali Poetry* (1974), and Ali Jimale Ahmed's *Daybreak Is Near: Literature, Clans and the Nation State in Somalia* (1996) are indispensable. The two most

important dictionaries are Awil Ali Hashi's *Essential English Somali Dictionary* (1993) and Salim Alio Ibro's *English-Jiddu-Somali Mini Dictionary* (1998). Nuruddin Farah, winner of the Neustadt Prize for Literature in 1998, is the author of several novels, including *From a Crooked Rib*, *Sardines*, *Maps*, *Gifts*, and *Secret*. His work has been translated into more than a dozen languages. *Yesterday, Tomorrow: Voices from the Somali Diaspora* (2000) is his latest publication.

The most notable works on economics in English are those by Garth Massey (1987), Abdi Samatar (1989), and Jamil Mubarak (1996). Reports by ministries and agencies of the Somali government, United Nations specialized agencies, the World Bank, and the International Monetary Fund are also essential.

Various archives are essential, as well. The Archivio Storico del ex-Ministero dell'Africa Italiana contains important documents from the Italian colonial period. The documents are kept in the Archives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Rome. The Public Record Office, at both the Kew and Chancery Lane branches in London, holds original correspondence, particularly in the files in the Colonial Office, the War Office, the Foreign Office, and the India Office. The Centre des Archives d'Outre-Mer in Aix-en-Provence and the Archives du Ministère des Affaires Étrangères in Paris maintain similar colonial correspondence. Dar al-Kutub al-Misriyyah, the Egyptian Archives, holds useful documents on Egyptian-Somali relations dating from Pharaonic times. In Wathaiq al-Qal'a, Cairo, there are also documents on the Ottomans in the Horn and the Red Sea region.

Readers interested in current Somali affairs should consult the scholarly journals *Horn of Africa*, *Review of African Political Economy*, *Journal of Modern African Studies*, and *Middle East Report*. The Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., holds not only major Somali journals and periodicals but also some dailies and selected articles, documents, and pamphlets. There are no official publications from Somalia since the collapse of the state; however, the diaspora community publishes books and magazines, mainly in Af-Mahaa, especially with the Darwiish Publishing House in Denmark and Horn Heritage Publications in London, but also in the language of the diaspora's host countries: Finnish, Danish, Swedish, Italian, German, French, and English. Haan Publishers issues books in English and reprints valuable out-of-print resources. The annual *Bildhaan*, published by Macalester College in St. Paul, Minnesota, and the quarterly *Demenedung*, published by the Inter-Riverine Studies Association in Savannah, Georgia, are also useful.

Web sites such as <arlaadi.com>, <banadir.co>, <makhir.com>, <somaliland.net>, and <waaberi.com> are useful. There are many business sites, such as <hornAfrik.com>, <dahabshiil.com> and amal express. Education sites include <somaliaedu.com/muniv.htm> for Mogadishu University, <university-ofhargeisa.org> for University of Hargeisa, and <somalistudents.com>, which



links all Somali student associations in the world. Some Somali newspapers (dailies) are also on line, among which are *Qaran* from Mogadishu, *Jamhuriya* from Hargeisa, and *Dhambaal* from Toronto.

## CONTENTS OF BIBLIOGRAPHY

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